

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804-3199
(406) 542-4300 Telefax (406) 542-4217



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (406) 444-2074
TELEFAX: (406) 444-2684

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2009

Ravalli County Commissioners

--	--	--	--	--

Beth after
you scan
pls mail a
copy of this #
mail to all fire
Depts on
the
Valley.
JWX
Glend

February 18, 2009

Dear Grant Applicant,

The application period for matching funds through the federally funded Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program (US Forest Service) and the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) program (US Department of Interior Agencies – Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Park Service) is now open. Completed applications must be received by **March 20, 2009**. **Funding for the RFA grant is conditional upon Congressional allocations to this program. At this point, DOI agencies have not funded this grant, but if that should change, this application may be utilized.**

Submit applications to:

Montana DNRC
Forestry Division/Fire & Aviation Management
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3199

Single applications representing county-wide fire organizations are required. Attach one Appendix A for each individual department and list the project for that department. At the top of each Appendix A, please write the name of the organization that corresponds to the appendix. For county-wide projects (a project that benefits all departments within a county; i.e. repeater system), include one Appendix A and note that it includes all the departments listed in the main body of the application.

As in the past, projects with wildland fire emphasis will receive priority. Communications equipment should be capable of integrating with state and federal firefighting forces (analog and narrow-band). The maximum grant amount for a single applicant is \$20,000. Construction or improvement of fire stations for housing equipment, normal operational expenses and maintenance do not qualify for VFA/RFA funding. Incomplete applications or those missing elements may not be considered, so please look them over carefully and do not rely on last year's application.

The VFA/RFA grant has been an excellent source for local fire organizations and we encourage your participation. Unless the RFA program is funded, expect the grant awards to be substantially less than 2008. We appreciate the work involved in getting county agencies together and putting the applications together fairly.

More details are available by contacting your local DNRC office, by calling me at (406) 622-5455 or on the internet at www.dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Fire.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas F. Williams".

DOUGLAS F. WILLIAMS
Rural Fire Coordinator
DNRC/Fire & Aviation Management

Volunteer Fire Assistance and Rural Fire Assistance Program

Date Rcv'd.: _____

For DNRC Use Only

Application Period: February 18 – March 20, 2009**APPLICANT:**

Date _____

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____, Montana / Zip _____

Person to Contact (name) _____ (Title) _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Chief Officer _____ (Title) _____

Federal Identification number to be used for grant: # 81 - _____

DUNS number: _____

JURISDICTION**Briefly** describe your jurisdiction. _____

Do you protect all property/residents in your community, district or area? Yes___ No___

PROJECT INVOLVEMENT - Countywide Application

Communities involved (names) _____

List Departments involved (complete Appendix A for each dept) _____

DOES THE PROJECT HAVE, OR HAVE THEY APPLIED FOR AN FHA COMMUNITY FACILITY LOAN THAT RELATES TO IMPROVE FIRE PROTECTION? Yes___ No___ If "Yes", when _____

DOES FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVE A CURRENT COOPERATIVE WILDLAND FIRE AGREEMENT WITH

(circle one) DOI Tribal State USFS None

IS THE FIRE DEPARTMENT A TRIBAL DEPARTMENT? Yes _____ No _____

**DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE INDIAN TRUST AND/OR RESTRICTED INDIAN LAND WITHIN
PRIMARY RESPONSE AREA?** Yes _____ No _____

WHAT ASSISTANCE DOES THIS APPLICATION COVER?

Organizing Fire Protection _____
Training _____
Fire Equipment _____
Fire Prevention _____
Wildland PPE _____

ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST: *From Appendix "A"*

TOTAL \$ _____

FIRE SERVICE INFORMATION:

Do you file your fire reports using the NFIRS system?	Yes	No
Number of wildland urban intermix acres protected by applicant:		
Number of wildfire responses within primary response area in 2008 - DOI lands:		USFS lands:
Total number of wildfire responses in 2008:	# of Initial Attack	# of Extended Attack
Number of mutual aid responses within primary response area in 2008 (include ALL agencies):		
Total number of all Fire Department responses in 2008 (wildfire, structure, EMS, all-risk):		
Minimum number of firefighters responding to structure fire in past three years:		
Maximum response distance (do not include mutual aid):		
Does your Fire Department have a wildland fire prevention program?	Yes	No
How many members of department meet basic wildland firefighter safety training (S130,S190)?		
How many members meet advanced wildland firefighter qualifications (ENGB,STEN,ICT3,etc)?		
What basic/advanced wildland fire training courses are necessary to meet department's needs?		
Does the department currently have wildland fire PPE for all active members? If not, how many members are equipped with PPE?		
Do you have a Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan (CWPP) or equivalent plan?	Yes	No

NOTE:

- One Appendix "A" must be attached for each department included in this application.
- Contracts are valid for six months from date of issuance; all allocated funds are to be expended by the contract expiration date.
- ONLY Countywide applications will be considered for grant participation, with exception of departments in counties without a countywide organization. In the case of departments in counties without a county fire association or fire council, countywide fire department, etc., your applications must be submitted through your County Fire Warden.

NIMS CERTIFICATION: I certify that our organization has adopted and uses the National Incident Management System (NIMS) in day-to-day emergency operations. Yes ____ No ____

Application Prepared By: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail application and appendixes to:

Montana DNRC
Forestry Division/ Fire & Aviation
ATTN: VFA/RFA Grant Program
2705 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3199

DNRC contacts:

Doug Williams	406-622-5455	DWilliams4@mt.gov
Ann Evans	406-542-4233	aevans@mt.gov

FACT SHEET
VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) PROGRAM

F-220

File: not filed

VFA, Title IV, is a federal matching funds program with dollars provided through the USDA Forest Service. The program is administered by the Montana State Forester (State Department of Natural Resources and Conservation - DNRC). Title II/IV authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide funds and technical assistance to the Montana DNRC to organize, train and equip local forces for preventing and suppressing wildfires.

1. Financial assistance on any project during any fiscal year cannot exceed 50 percent of the actual expenditures, including expenditures of local and private non-profit organizations participating in the agreement.
 2. This assistance is available only to communities under 10,000 in population, but groups of smaller communities may join together in a combined effort to serve more than 10,000 people.
 3. Costs associated with the project prior to project approval, are normally not eligible for funding.
 4. Cost sharing funds for approved projects will normally be transferred at the completion of the project.
 5. Project coverage might include such items as:
 - (a) Fire Protection Organization and Planning
 - (1) Formation of Rural and Volunteer Fire Districts
 - (2) Fire Plans
 - (b) Fire Training
 - (1) Structural fire protection
 - (2) Wildland fire protection
 - (c) Fire Equipment
 - (1) Communications systems
 - (2) Conversion of Excess Military Property
 - (3) New equipment purchases
 - (d) PPE
 6. Construction or improvement of fire stations for housing fire equipment, normal operational expenses, and maintenance expenses cannot qualify for Volunteer Fire Assistance funds.
 7. Federal funds may **not** be used by local organizations to match VFA funds.
-
-

RURAL FIRE ASSISTANCE (RFA) PROGRAM

Purpose

The Rural Fire Assistance Program is a Department of the Interior program to enhance firefighter safety and strengthen fire protection capabilities. Safe and effective fire suppression in the wildland urban interface demands close coordination among local, state, tribal, and federal firefighting resources. Funding will be used to provide technical assistance, training, supplies, equipment and public education support to rural fire departments.

Criteria for Project Selection

The following criteria will determine suitable Rural Fire Assistance projects:

- A statewide agreement exists with the State Forester, who maintains cooperative fire agreements with the Rural Fire Departments (RFD) and Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD), or a cooperative fire agreement is in effect with a Department of the Interior bureau.
- The rural fire department serves a community with a population of 10,000 or less in the wildland urban interface.
- The funding request is limited to wildland training, PPE, equipment and prevention.
- The Rural Fire Department has the capability to meet cost-share at a minimum of 10%, which may include in-kind services.

In prioritizing fund allocation among Rural Fire Departments, agency evaluators will:

- Determine each department's frequency of responses to wildland urban fire incidents in the local area and evaluate these frequencies against other applicants.
- Evaluate the department's wildland fire prevention and education program needs relative to other applicants.
- Evaluate the department's training program needs relative to other applicants.
- Evaluate the community's and DOI's values to be protected relative to other applicants.
- Evaluate the percentage of wildland urban area relative to other applicants.
- Determine the number of wildland fire engines in the department relative to the percentage of wildland urban interface acres protected.

Program Administration

To ensure consistency and compatibility with existing rural fire assistance programs, Interior bureaus will work with state foresters. A maximum allowable contribution from the Department of the Interior per Rural Fire Department per year is established at \$20,000.

APPENDIX "A"
VOLUNTEER AND RURAL FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT: _____

F-219

Contract Name, Phone, email:

TRAINING Description: _____

<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u># TRAINEES</u>	<u># OF HOURS PER TRAINEE</u>	<u>TOTAL \$\$</u>

EQUIPMENT Description: _____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

PREVENTION Description: _____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

(OVER)

ORG/PLANNING Description : _____

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Contributed Labor: Description of Project: _____
 (Volunteer labor that does not result in a billing to you.)

Number of Hours _____

Cost at \$7.50/hour \$ _____

TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT :

\$ _____

(enter on page 2 of application)

(Expand on additional sheets, if necessary)